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APPL.



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Ms. Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

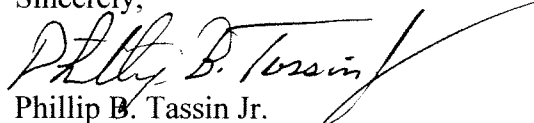
I am a proud employee of CN. I am currently a resident of Illinois, and have been in the railroad industry for 10 years.

As you know, CN is seeking STB approval of its proposed acquisition of a major portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway (EJ&E). The purpose of the acquisition is simple: we envision that we can provide more efficient service to our customers by traveling over an underutilized, existing rail line rather than going through downtown Chicago. In my prior service in the armed forces, I am well aware of the importance of being able to transport material quickly and effectively. This acquisition, if allowed to proceed as planned, will do just that.

As everybody is aware, the STB has already spent months studying environmental impacts of the transaction on the communities along the EJ&E line that will experience more train traffic as a result of the transaction. As the STB continues its work, please keep in mind that there is a balance to the entire project, in that the larger transportation network across the entire region and beyond will benefit by having their deliveries reach destination significantly quicker than they currently can. Yes, there will be impacts to some communities, benefits to others, but the fact remains that congestion HAS to be addressed, and my employer has proposed a very costly transaction, with its own funds, for benefits that extend beyond its own property.

I strongly urge the STB to approve this transaction without undue delay, making full use of the considerable resources already dedicated to this effort.

Sincerely,


Phillip B. Tassin Jr.

cc: Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Barack Obama

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